

James & Esther King Biomedical Research Program

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*Radiation Oncology
University of Florida*

*2009 Program
Florida Research Challenge
(2-year project)*

Project Title: Ensuring Quality Care for Radiation Therapy Patients

Project Summary: The purpose of this grant is to develop a system that is designed to store each cancer patient's life-long medical records. The system will store medical history, medical care records, medications, lab reports, diagnostic images, radiation therapy data, health monitoring data, and adverse reaction profile. In a typical scenario, these records are often scattered around different healthcare facilities. There is a dire need to provide an electronic health record system for cancer patients, especially those who will receive radiation (two-thirds of newly diagnosed cancer patients). Radiation therapy balances the probability of inducing a curative effect on tumor-laden tissues against the probability of inducing possibly debilitating or catastrophic adverse side-effects in the patient. Therefore, immediate access to a cancer patient's lifelong medical records is extremely important. With our system, this capability will be made available on demand to the radiation oncology community via secure World Wide Web technology. Web-based access to a radiation therapy patient's medical records will mitigate existing geographical and temporal constraints. With internet access and proper security privileges, healthcare providers will be able to access the data from any location and review it in an interactive and collaborative manner. Furthermore, a Web-based electronic peer review system will dramatically improve the safety and quality of care for radiation therapy patients.